POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF TWO ORGANIC ACIDS USED IN THE CONTROL OF THE HONEY BEE PARASITIC MITE *VARROA DESTRUCTOR* (ANDERSON) (ACARI: VARROIDAE)

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The honey bees *Apis mellifera* L. (Hymenoptera: Apidae) are currently confronted with a high level of mortality. The parasite *Varroa destructor* (Anderson) (Acari: Varroidae) is suspected to be one of the most important factors involved in this worldwide problem. Indeed, this mite is the most serious pest of managed honey bee colonies. In Belgium, only three legal miticides (coumaphos, fluvalinate and amitraze) were available to control this parasite. Since resistance to those active substances appeared, Belgian beekeepers have not enough solutions to control *V. destructor*. Organic acids are frequently used in other European countries as alternative control of the parasitic honey bee mite but results of efficacy and toxicity tests reported in scientific and non scientific literature are often contradictory. We reviewed the positive and negative effects of both oxalic and formic acids.